3.13 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

3.13.1 Affected Environment

3.13.1.1 Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The North Precinct of the Seattle Police Department (SPD), with jurisdiction over all of Seattle north of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, provides police protection for Sand Point Magnuson Park and the project site. The Sand Point area is within the "U" sector designated by the Police Department, which covers the areas from Union Bay and Lake Union north to N.E. 85th Street, and from Aurora Avenue N. east to Lake Washington. Between five and nine squad cars are generally on patrol in the U sector, depending on the time of day and day of week. Services provided by the North Precinct include patrol, traffic control and investigation.

The Seattle Fire Department currently provides fire and emergency medical service to Sand Point Magnuson Park. Fire Stations 38 and 40 are the closest stations to the park.

3.13.1.2 Sanitary Sewer Service

The Sand Point site is served by a sanitary sewer system operated the City of Seattle. It is comprised of gravity lines that supply a series of mechanically-pumped lift stations that discharge into the City-operated main on Sand Point Way. During the Sand Point reuse planning process, the existing sewer mains and side sewers on the former naval station property were reported to be in poor condition (City of Seattle, 1996 and 1997). Specific problems identified included pipes that were cracked, broken, and sagging in many places, with poor joints resulting in considerable groundwater infiltration, as well as root intrusion and grease. Following the transfer of the property to the City, the Department of Parks and Recreation contracted a substantial upgrade of the onsite sewer systems that was completed in 1999.

3.13.1.3 Storm Sewer Service

The Sand Point site is served by an existing storm drain system comprised of a series of lines ranging from 4-inch collectors to 30-inch pipe for major trunk lines. Many of these lines originate on Sand Point Way and drain toward Lake Washington, collecting water from roof drains, sports fields, and paved areas. A number of existing storm drain interceptor lines cross through portions of the 153-acre project site, as do two storm drain trunk lines (see Figure DR-6 in **Appendix B**). Stormwater from the Sand Point site discharges to Lake Washington at approximately seven locations along the shoreline of the peninsula. Most of these locations are elsewhere on the peninsula, such as at Pontiac Bay near the northwestern corner of the park, although three drain lines appear to discharge to the lake near the beach area within the general limits of the project site. During the mid-1990s, many of the drain lines were reported to be deteriorating and no longer functioning as designed (City of Seattle, 1996 and 1997). Runoff ponding on the existing sports fields is a common seasonal occurrence, and can be interpreted as indicative of the functioning of the existing stormwater system.

3.13.1.4 Water Supply System

The Water Services division of Seattle Public Utilities supplies domestic water to Sand Point Magnuson Park. A water distribution system was developed on the Sand Point site several decades ago to serve the former naval station. Documents prepared in conjunction with the Sand Point Reuse Project noted that the existing water system consisted of old, mostly unlined cast-iron pipe with lead joints (City of Seattle, 1996 and 1997). These reports also indicated that the existing fire hydrants were in need of upgrading, water quality cross-connection issues might exist, leaks and system failures were common, and there might be unknown connections with adjoining water systems. Following the transfer of the property to the City, however, a new water system servicing the community campus area of the park was built in 1999. It is assumed that the new system resolved many of the problems cited in the previous reports.

3.13.1.5 Electrical System

As with other components of the original infrastructure, the existing underground electrical system at the Sand Point site was functional for previous uses but is dated and assumed to be inconsistent with the City's current codes (City of Seattle, 1996 and 1997). As a result, much of the system may need to be replaced with upgraded facilities designed to meet current standards. Once this is accomplished, Seattle City Light will presumably accept ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the electric distribution system serving Sand Point Magnuson Park.

3.13.2 Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

3.13.2.1 Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Construction activity for the proposed project should have minimal impact on existing police, fire and emergency medical services. Construction vehicle traffic to and from the project site might generate the occasional need for traffic control services from the Seattle Police Department. On-the-job accidents also might result in infrequent calls for emergency medical response.

The proposed action would generate a substantial increase in the overall number of visitors using the park (see **Section 3.10 Recreation** for additional discussion), as well as an increase in the hours of the day when large numbers of visitors are present. Most of the change in visitor use patterns would result from the expansion of sports field capacity and use, which would likely create some level of increased demand for police and emergency medical services. The increased sports field use could be expected to result in a corresponding increase in the number of sports injuries, which would translate into a greater frequency of Medic One responses to Sand Point Magnuson Park. With the increased use of the park, particularly during evening hours, SPD officers would likely experience an increase in responses to incidents and be inclined to increase the frequency of police patrols in the park. While the proposed action would gradually increase demand from the park for police and emergency medical services, it is expected that this change would not be significant relative to the existing capacity of the service providers. Therefore, current levels of police and emergency medical service would not likely be diminished and the project should not create a need for additional emergency service staff and/or equipment.

Several review comments on the Draft EIS suggested that public safety might actually be decreased under the proposed action, with the operation of lighted sports fields into late evening hours and a large number

of sports field users present at those times. The Department of Parks and Recreation does not expect this to be a significant adverse consequence of the proposed action. As indicated above, the sports field complex would be a well-known center of late-evening activity and would be expected to draw an increased frequency of police patrols. In addition, the Department has adopted and enforces a sports participation policy (SMC 18.12.040) that would help to minimize problem behavior at the sports fields. A purpose of the policy is to establish the Department's "standard expectation of behavior with regards to noise, clean-up, litter, parking and respect for neighbors who live in close proximity to the sports fields." The participation policy requires sports organizations using Department facilities to certify that they have established and abide by the Sports Code of Conduct that governs the behavior of participants, officials, administrative staff, coaches and spectators. The policy clearly identifies the behavior expectations, and types of behavior that are not accepted. Sports organizations that are determined to be out of compliance with the Code of Conduct can be denied permission to use Department facilities, or subjected to other appropriate action. The participation policy provides clear incentive to sports organizations to police their own members and ensure that their behavior at Department facilities is acceptable.

3.13.2.2 Sanitary Sewer System

The proposed action would require sanitary sewer connections for the new restroom and concession facilities. Sanitary sewer service for the five new buildings would be provided by extending service laterals from existing sewer lines to the buildings. There is an existing sanitary sewer system and force main (with lift station) that services the existing sports meadow and beach area restroom buildings. The sanitary sewer system east and upstream of the lift station is also the proposed location for the Beach Drive Pond; therefore, a portion of this sewer system would be relocated and the lift station would be reconstructed as part of the proposed action.

The wastewater load from the new facilities would be small, and connecting these facilities to the existing sewer system would not require major reconstruction. Therefore, the impact of the project on the sewer system infrastructure and capacity is expected to be negligible.

3.13.2.3 Storm Sewer Service

The proposed action includes an integrated drainage system for the project site that incorporates a combination of water quantity and water quality features (please refer to **Sections 2.4 and 3.2** for more detailed discussions of existing and post-construction storm drainage facilities). The proposed system would meet the drainage needs of the sports field complex and the hydrologic and water quality needs of the wetland/habitat complex. The project drainage system would also provide water quantity and quality treatment for stormwater runoff from off-site contributing areas that drains through the project site. Based on the expected post-construction drainage conditions, the proposed action would improve both stormwater quantity and quality control and would thereby have a positive impact on the project site.

As indicated previously, existing storm sewer facilities on the project site are expected to be deteriorating and no longer functioning as designed. With development of the drainage system included in the proposed action, the existing storm drain lines would no longer be needed. Consequently, existing storm sewer facilities encountered during project construction would be removed as part of the project.

3.13.2.4 Water Supply System

Water supply for building services and fire protection would be provided by extending services from the existing water line network on the Sand Point site. New service connections for the five new buildings and field irrigation systems would be constructed to the new water supply system built in 1999. Existing water lines that are located where new wetland/habitat complex facilities and sports fields/courts are to be located would either be removed or relocated.

Water consumption for use and maintenance of the facilities included in the proposed action would not likely be significantly more than present levels (see **Section 3.5 Energy and Natural Resources**). The greatest potential for increased water consumption under the proposed action would be from irrigation of natural-turf fields and new landscaping. While turf irrigation needs would include the expanded sports meadow, the total turf area would decrease by 6.6 acres because the existing grass Sand Point fields would be replaced with artificial-turf fields. Park lawn and landscaped area would increase by 1.4 acre under the proposed action and would contribute to total water consumption with the project. Water usage for new restrooms, drinking fountains and concession facilities would represent a minor increase in long-term water consumption on the site. Irrigation would be needed on a temporary basis for selected vegetative communities in the wetland/habitat complex. This irrigation would cease after the subject plants became established, which would likely occur within 5 years after development.

3.13.2.5 Electrical System

The proposed action would require electrical service for concessions and restrooms, as well as for the sports field and ancillary lighting systems. Improvement of the existing electrical system serving Sand Point Magnuson Park is an identified need that is expected to be accomplished by the time the proposed action is implemented. Electrical system connections to serve the proposed facilities would be designed and constructed for compatibility system serving the park, and there would be no adverse impact to the existing system. (Electricity consumption is discussed in **Section 3.5 Energy and Natural Resources**.)

3.13.3 Impacts of the Alternatives

3.13.3.1 Lesser-Capacity Alternative

Under the lesser-capacity alternative, park usage would increase substantially over present levels, although to a considerably lesser degree than for the proposed action; this alternative would provide approximately half of the increased sports field capacity of the proposed action. The increased use would have similar effects on the demand for police and emergency medical services and could result in increased response frequency and police patrols. As with the proposed action, current levels of police and emergency medical services would not likely be diminished and the lesser-capacity alternative for the project should not create a need for additional emergency service staff and/or equipment.

Actions and impacts associated with utility systems for the lesser-capacity alternative would be essentially the same as those described in **Section 3.13.2** for the proposed action. The new restroom and concession buildings would connect to the sanitary sewer and water supply systems that were refurbished or replaced in 1999. Water consumption for the lesser-capacity alternative would actually be somewhat higher than for the proposed action, because the former includes a larger area of natural-turf sports fields

(approximately 10 fields, compared to 3 to 4 fields for the proposed action). The difference does not represent a major change from the existing area of natural turf, which would increase by 4.6 acres with the lesser-capacity alternative. The lesser-capacity alternative includes virtually the same stormwater drainage features as the proposed action, and would likewise result in improved drainage conditions on the project site. As with the proposed action, the lesser-capacity alternative incorporates provisions to meet all utility needs and would create negligible impacts on existing utility systems.

3.13.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, future public service and utility conditions on the project site would likely change little from present conditions. Demand for emergency services would not be affected by the development of major new park facilities, but would likely increase gradually as population growth led to increased park use. Future maintenance actions on the project site would not create the need for new sanitary sewer and water supply connections. Improvements to the electrical system serving Sand Point Magnuson Park would presumably still be needed, primarily to serve the current and pending uses in the community campus area. Stormwater drainage systems and conditions would continue generally as at present, with poor overall drainage and a lack of water quantity and quality control measures.

3.13.4 Cumulative Impacts

The proposed action or the lesser-capacity alternative would not be expected to result in a significant impact on emergency services. Similarly, the pending and planned Sand Point activities addressed in the Sand Point Reuse Plan would not create significant impacts on police, fire or emergency medical services (City of Seattle, 1996). The combined effects of the drainage, wetland/habitat and sports fields/courts project and the other projects on the Sand Point site would still represent small incremental changes in service demand and the ability of providers to deliver these services. There are no planned activities or developments in the community surrounding Sand Point Magnuson Park that would produce significant changes in demands for emergency services. Therefore, there does not appear to be a potential for cumulative impacts on emergency services associated with the proposed project.

Utility systems serving the Sand Point site are largely self-contained and have been or will be updated to meet contemporary needs and standards. Provisions for utility service are incorporated into the proposed action and lesser-capacity alternative, and either alternative would have negligible impacts on existing utility systems. There is no potential for cumulative public utility impacts associated with the proposal.

3.13.5 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts on public services or utility systems have been identified for the proposed action or the lesser-capacity alternative. Therefore, no mitigation measures have been proposed.

3.13.6 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The proposed action and the lesser-capacity alternative would have minor needs for utility service and would create a minor, unavoidable increase in the demand for emergency services, but impacts in both categories are expected to be insignificant.